

**REMARKS**

In the present Amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to delete “by centrifugation.” Section 112 support for this amendment may be found, for example, at page 9, lines 8-9 of the specification. No new matter has been added, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1 and 3-20 will be pending.

In paragraph No. 3 of the Office Action dated June 18, 2007, Claims 1 and 3-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,265,479 to Ichikawa et al.

Applicant submits that this rejection should be withdrawn because Ichikawa does not disclose or render obvious the presently claimed natural rubber.

Applicant submits that a deproteinizing treatment known as that of Ichikawa is conducted to produce a natural rubber having a total nitrogen content not more than 0.10% by weight for medical purposes against allergies, and in the treatment proteins in a natural rubber are usually decomposed and then highly removed.

Accordingly, separation of non-rubber components is very important for Ichikawa. Therefore, Ichikawa uses centrifugation to remove non-rubber components efficiently.

On the contrary, the object of the present invention is to provide a natural rubber in which proteins connecting branching points of the natural rubber are decomposed in order to cut off the branching points, which improves workability of the natural rubber.

Further, the treatment of the present invention does not include the step of removing decomposed proteins which contain nitrogen contents.

Accordingly, the natural rubber of the present invention achieves not only improved workability but also excellent heat resistance by non-rubber components remaining in the natural rubber.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection based on Ichikawa et al '479 are respectfully requested.

Allowance is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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